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CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

THE UNSTOPPABLE Jessica Chastain TALKS MAMA AND ZERO DARK THIRTY

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2013 MOVIE PREVIEW! THE YEAR'S 10 MUST-SEE PICS, PAGE 26

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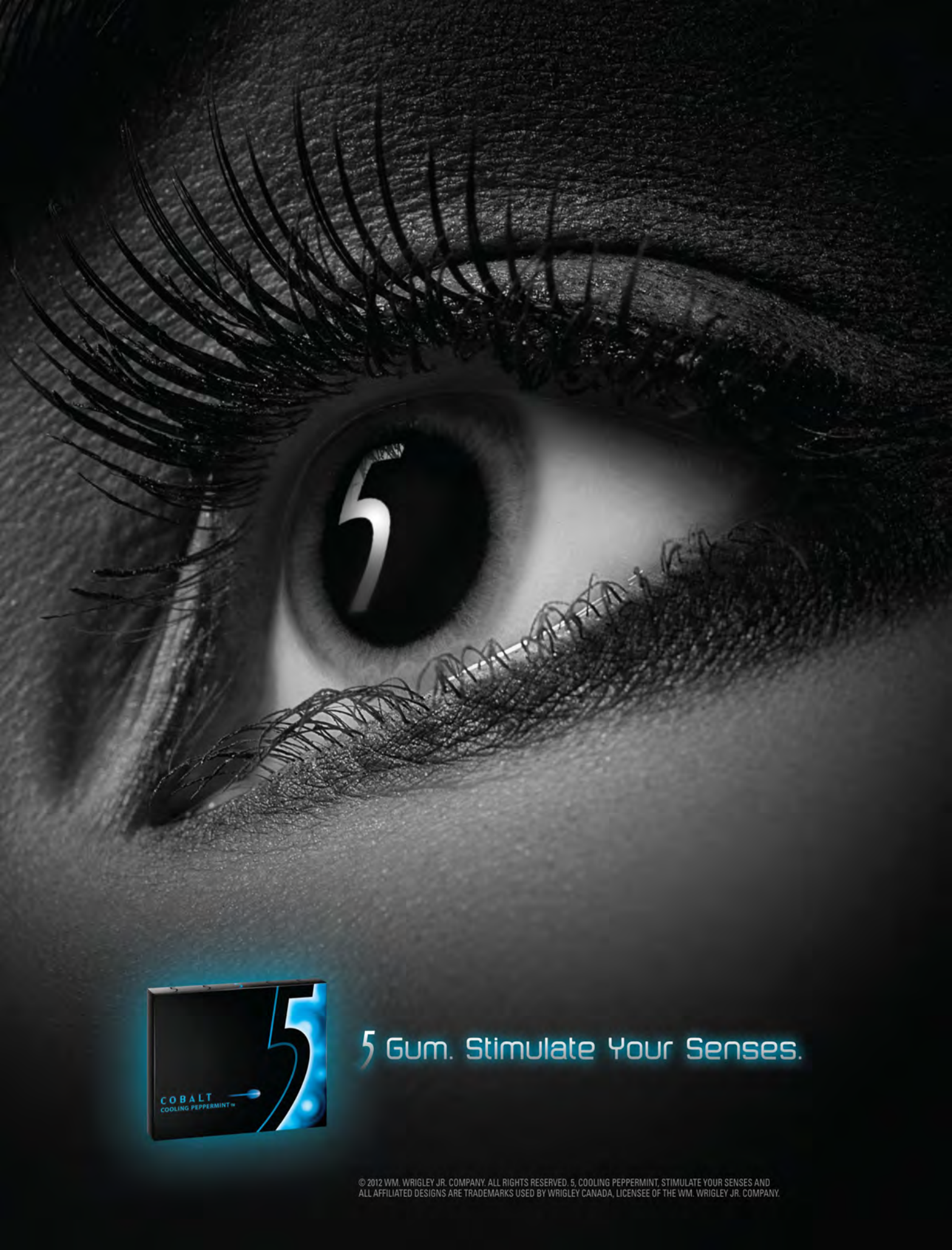

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EDITOR'S **NOTE**

WHO'S **THAT GIRL?**

When I saw *The Help* a couple of years ago, I was watching for Jessica Chastain. She wasn't the star of the movie, but she'd appeared in buzz-worthy films *The Tree of Life*, *The Debt* and *Take Shelter* earlier that year and all of a sudden her name was popping up in cast list after cast list.

To be honest, I wasn't overly impressed with her performance as mousy housewife Elizabeth Leefolt. Maybe it was because the character was *supposed* to be in the background, a subordinate to stronger characters played by Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Bryce Dallas Howard. Or maybe it was because I was watching the wrong actor.

Chastain, a willowy redhead in those previous films (and in real life), didn't play the meek, auburn-haired Leefolt, that was Ahna O'Reilly. Chastain played brash, bubbly blonde Celia Foote. Remember? She was the sweet-natured social outcast who secretly hired Octavia Spencer's maid Minny to teach her how to cook and keep house. And, in addition to being unrecognizable (she gained 15 pounds in all the right places for the role), Chastain was fantastic. In fact, the performance earned Chastain her first Oscar nomination.

The fact that one of my colleagues had a similar experience — although he confused Chastain with fellow redhead Howard throughout the film — makes me feel a bit better. What makes me feel a lot better is recognizing that Chastain is perhaps the most transformable actor working today.

Never mind the 11 (wow) eclectic films Chastain has had in theatres over the past two years, you need only look at this issue of *Cineplex Magazine* to appreciate the Juilliard graduate's ability to recreate herself from the core out. Flip to our interview, "Jessica Chastain's Dark Turn" on page 42, and you'll see her with a messy black bob and punky eyeliner for the horror *Mama*. Turn the page to see her as a clean-scrubbed CIA agent in *Zero Dark Thirty*. Then close the magazine to see her looking like a film noir glamour icon on the cover.

There is a downside to being so malleable. As Chastain once said in a red-carpet interview, "I'll be the first unknown that everyone's going to be sick of. People will say, 'We have no idea what her name is, but she is everywhere!'" Though I think film fans know her name by now.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find an interview with **Josh Brolin** for *Gangster Squad* (page 34), a look at *Broken City* star **Russell Crowe**'s sometimes mystifying life and career (page 38) and our **2013 Movie Preview** (page 26), an eight-page rundown of the 10 movies you must see this year.

■ **MARNI WEISZ**, EDITOR

CINEPLEX MAGAZINE

PUBLISHER SALAH BACHIR

EDITOR MARNI WEISZ
DEPUTY EDITOR INGRID RANDOJA
ART DIRECTOR TREVOR STEWART
ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR
STEVIE SHIPMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION
SHEILA GREGORY

CONTRIBUTORS CHRIS ALEXANDER, JIM SLOTEK

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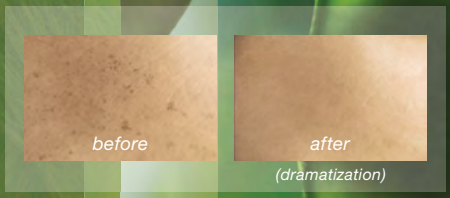

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT

Welcome to the January issue of *Cineplex Magazine*.

Writing this message is something I look forward to each year. It's not only an opportunity to reflect on the year that was, but also to look forward to the hopes, promise and excitement of the year ahead.

The past year was an exciting time for the movie business in Canada. We saw incredible blockbusters — from *The Avengers* and *The Dark Knight Rises*, to the final installment of *The Twilight Saga* and the highly anticipated *The Hobbit*. But the entertainment didn't end there. We brought dozens of great foreign films to the Canadian big screen and our popular Front Row Centre Events wowed audiences with another year of music, film, dance, theatre and sports entertainment.

By the time we closed the books on 2012, we had welcomed approximately 70 million guests to our 134 theatres from British Columbia to Quebec. We hope you enjoyed your year at the movies as much as we enjoyed being your host.

The past year was an exciting time at Cineplex Entertainment, as we continued to build one of Canada's largest and most successful entertainment companies:

➤ We welcomed a number of new cinemas to our family, including three VIP Cinemas — which are fully licenced, feature luxurious seating and offer in-seat menu service that includes a wide variety of specialty entrees and appetizers. We also opened new UltraAVX auditoriums — which offer a totally immersive movie-going experience, including wall-to-wall screens and enhanced Dolby surround sound.

➤ We completed our conversion to 100 percent digital projection, bringing crystal clear pictures to the Canadian big screen and opening the door to a whole new world of content.

➤ Our SCENE loyalty program celebrated its fifth birthday and surpassed four million members. More than one in 10 Canadians now count themselves SCENE members — a testament to the value the program provides. SCENE is a free loyalty program. You can enroll at SCENE.ca.

➤ Perhaps the accomplishment of which we are most proud is our success at giving back to the communities in which we do business. In 2012, Cineplex Entertainment donated more than $1-million to the Starlight Children's Foundation — including the more than $425,000 you helped us raise as part of National Community Day. Thank you for helping seriously ill children and their families cope with the stress of illness.

Looking ahead to 2013, we will continue the expansion of our VIP Cinema concept by opening new cinemas and looking for opportunities to bring Canada's best movie-going experience to new locations across the country. We'll also add our popular UltraAVX offering and D-Box MFX Motion Seats to existing theatres, taking the in-theatre experience to a whole new level.

While theatre exhibition will always be the core of our business, we're also looking for new ways to bring Cineplex to you. One of the most exciting advancements on that front is the recent launch of UltraViolet, a brand new technology you will hear a lot about in 2013. UltraViolet is a free online service that gives you greater flexibility in how and where you watch the movies and television shows you purchase. Once a movie has been added to your UltraViolet collection, you will have the option to stream it over the internet, download it for offline viewing or play it back on a disc. To learn more, visit cineplexstore.com.

These are exciting times at Cineplex Entertainment and we can't thank you enough for your ongoing support. Best wishes for a safe, happy and prosperous new year.

■ **ELLIS JACOB**, President and CEO, Cineplex Entertainment

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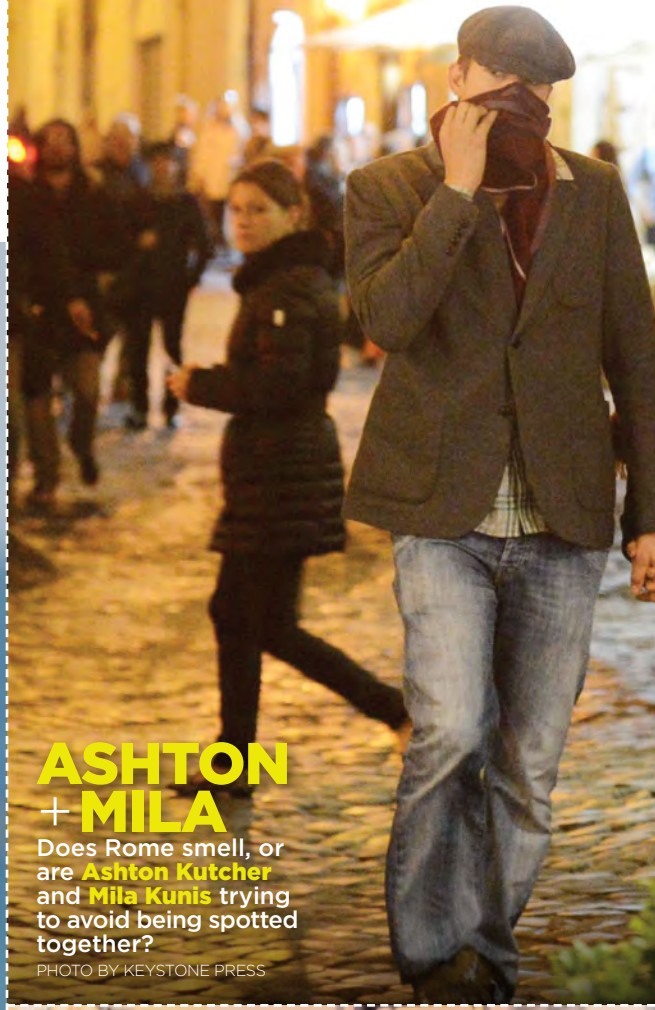
Disney artwork/properties: ©Disney

SNAPS

BEACH SET

Chris Evans, **Michelle Monaghan** and a flock of seagulls shoot a scene for *A Many Splintered Thing* in Malibu, California.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS



ASHTON + MILA

Does Rome smell, or are **Ashton Kutcher** and **Mila Kunis** trying to avoid being spotted together?

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

HAMM BAGS

Mad Men star **Jon Hamm** bags his own groceries while shopping at Gelson's supermarket in West Hollywood.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

SARAH GOES BAM

In New York City, **Sarah Jessica Parker** shows her love for the President of the United States with a "Viva Obama" T-shirt.

PHOTO BY JACKSON LEE/SPLASH NEWS

COLIN'S BEAUTIFUL RIDE

Colin Farrell on his white steed while filming *Winter's Tale* in Brooklyn, New York.

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

IN BRIEF

SILENT PARTNERS

It looks like Matt Damon (left) and John Krasinski are having a heated discussion in this still from *Promised Land*, but are they...really? That depends on which take this image came from.

Director Gus Van Sant has become fond of what he calls "silent takes" — although he freely admits he lifted the idea from fellow helmer Terrence Malick. The concept involves filming a scene while skipping the dialogue. Instead, the actors recite the lines in their heads and act simply with expressions and body language. "Terry uses them in perhaps a different way, but they have become very valuable to me," says Van Sant.

The film's editor, Billy Rich, says the footage that comes from "silent takes" is invaluable. "This gives Gus the opportunity to use someone's reaction off another actor from a spoken version of the scene because people are performing differently in the silent takes. It adds to an audience's understanding of what's going on for characters in the story."

Damon and Krasinski should know their lines pretty well. The pair wrote the script (about an impoverished small town deciding whether to let an oil company drill) together after meeting through actor Emily Blunt — Krasinski's wife and Damon's co-star in 2011's *The Adjustment Bureau*. This is only the third script for Oscar-winning screenwriter Damon, after the film that earned him that honour, 1997's *Good Will Hunting* and 2002's *Gerry*. All three films have been directed by Van Sant. *—MW*

On Home Turf: BATES MOTEL

Vera Farmiga

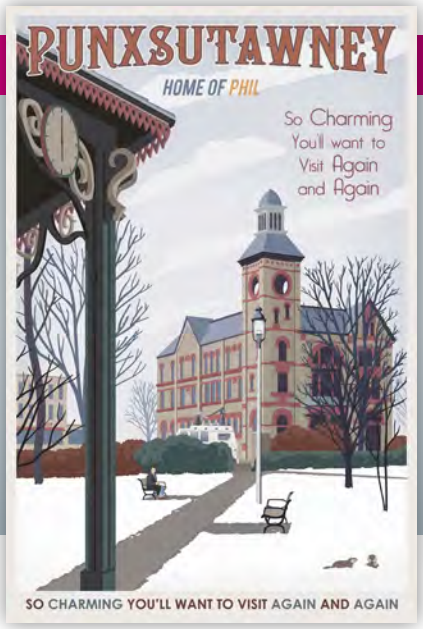
Aldergrove, B.C., about 60 kilometres east of Vancouver, has a new motel. But you might not want to stay there.

The TV series *Bates Motel*, a prequel to Alfred Hitchcock's horror *Psycho*, delves into the complicated relationship between young Norman Bates, played by Freddie Highmore (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), and his dear mother Norma, played by Vera Farmiga (*Up in the Air*).

Co-produced by one of *Lost*'s creators, Carlton Cuse, the show's first season shoots in B.C. through the end of this month, and should premiere on A&E sometime this year. *—MW*

THE ART OF FILM

Steve Thomas's movie-themed travel posters are so beautiful they make us want to go to places we shouldn't, like the scenic Georgia backwoods, site of *Deliverance*, Bodega Bay, where Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* took flight, or Punxsutawney, the town that held Bill Murray captive in *Groundhog Day*. Thomas, who is from Windsor, Ontario, but now lives in Minnesota, explains, "I've always liked movies.... And I really like the travel posters and ads from the early 20th century. I think it has something to do with the combination of art and text." See more at www.stevethomasart.com. *—MW*



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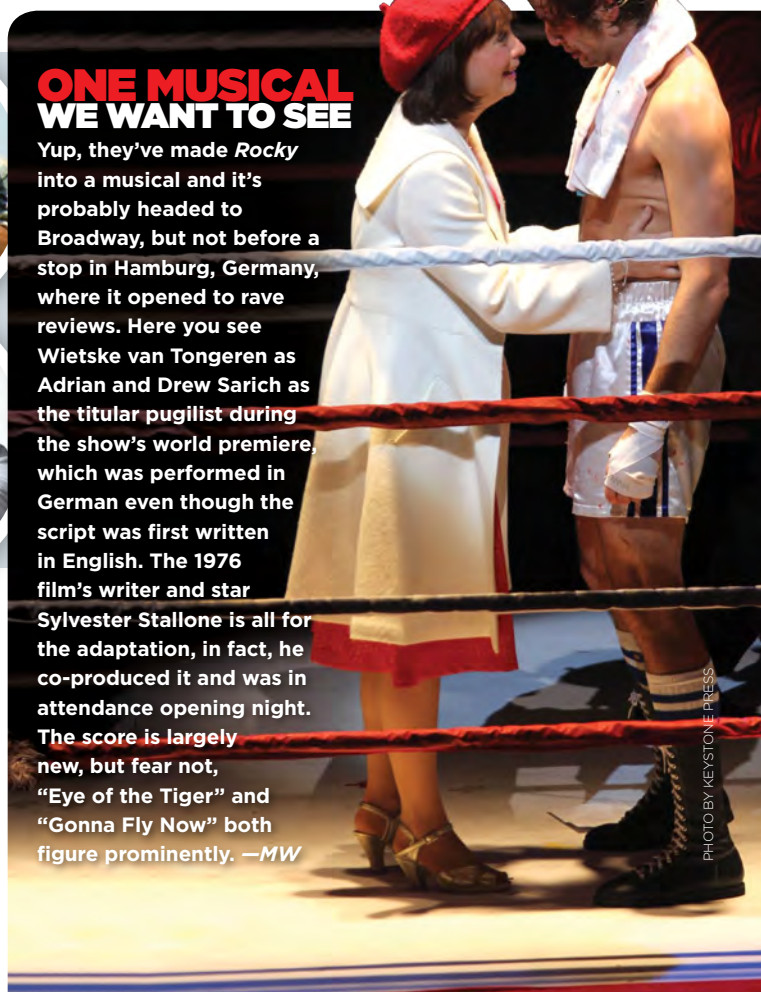
CELEBRITY TROPHY-BEARER OF THE MONTH

Nicole Kidman holds some sort of large and important-looking cup while attending Derby Day at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Australia.

PHOTO BY LUCAS DAWSON/GETTY

Relax, Jeremy

We're worried about Jeremy Renner. A great actor, yes. But since his breakout role in 2008's *The Hurt Locker*, each of his theatrical releases has hinged on his ability to wield a big weapon. This month's *Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters* is no exception, as Renner's Hansel and his sister Gretel (Gemma Arterton) deal with their childhood trauma suffered at that candy-coated house by getting even. *—MW*



ONE MUSICAL WE WANT TO SEE

Yup, they've made *Rocky* into a musical and it's probably headed to Broadway, but not before a stop in Hamburg, Germany, where it opened to rave reviews. Here you see Wietske van Tongeren as Adrian and Drew Sarich as the titular pugilist during the show's world premiere, which was performed in German even though the script was first written in English. The 1976 film's writer and star Sylvester Stallone is all for the adaptation, in fact, he co-produced it and was in attendance opening night. The score is largely new, but fear not, "Eye of the Tiger" and "Gonna Fly Now" both figure prominently. *—MW*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

Did You Know?

Even though *On the Road* is Kristen Stewart's first post-*Twilight* movie, she actually met with director Walter Salles *before* the first *Twilight* film was released. It was Stewart's performance in 2007's *Into the Wild* that convinced Salles she was right to play Marylou in this adaptation of the classic Jack Kerouac novel.

Quote Unquote

"I think the thing I learnt was how naïve I was for 45 years in front of the camera. I had no idea of the machinery that takes place on the other side of the producer and the director that has nothing to do with what you're going to see on the screen. **Everything is a train wreck, constantly!**"

—**DUSTIN HOFFMAN** ON HIS FEATURE FILM DIRECTING DEBUT, *QUARTET*

WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN SHOTS

Thor (Chris Hemsworth, right) and Malekith (Christopher Eccleston) shoot *Thor: The Dark World* in London, England.

PHOTOS BY SIMON JAMES/GETTY

STUNT CASTING

What do Famke Janssen, Nicole Kidman, Tricia Helfer and Sigourney Weaver all have in common? Stunt woman Monique Ganderton has thrown their punches, taken their falls and generally put her body in harm's way for their benefit.

"I've been so fortunate," says Ganderton on the line from her hometown of Edmonton, where the now California-based stunt woman and actor is visiting friends and family.

"I know it sounds weird, but everybody I've doubled has been awesome. I've been on sets where the other actors on set have been horrifying, but my actors, I don't know if these laid-back, tall girls are different, but they're wonderful."

You've seen Ganderton disguised as leading ladies in such movies as *X-Men: The Last Stand*, *Cabin in the Woods*, *Trespass* and on TV's *Battlestar Galactica*. This month she plays the role of the Candy Witch and doubles for evil witch Famke Janssen in the action-packed *Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters*, which casts Jeremy Renner and Gemma Arterton as the grown-up siblings obsessed with wiping out witches.

Ganderton credits her success as a stunt woman to the fact she began her career as an actor so brings an actor's mentality to the job. "Working with Famke, I would ask, 'How do you want to do this? What kind of presence are you going to have when you walk out of the room in the scene?'

"Because if I have to walk out and get yanked back on a wire, I want to know what kind of energy she's going up there with. Is she walking slowly out? Is she being sultry? Is she storming out? So we discuss these things, or I watch her do the rehearsals and incorporate that into the action."

And did anyone in *Hansel & Gretel* impress Ganderton with their action skills?

"On this movie Gemma learned how to punch and she's amazing at it," says Ganderton. "If you count up how many right crosses Gemma throws it would a lot 'cause she is so good at it." —*INGRID RANDOJA*

PHOTO BY CAMILLA CAMAGLIA

HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS
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CAMERON DIAZ

LACMA Art and Film Gala in Los Angeles.

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PENÉLOPE CRUZ

Rome premiere of *Venuto al mondo*.

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

EMILY BLUNT

Harper's Bazaar Women of the Year Awards in London.

PHOTO BY DOUG PETERS/KEYSTONE PRESS

ROBERT PATTINSON

Los Angeles premiere of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2.*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

Los Angeles premiere of *Anna Karenina.*

PHOTO BY MATT BARON/KEYSTONE PRESS

EWAN McGREGOR

***The Impossible* premiere in London.**

PHOTO BY IAN WEST/KEYSTONE PRESS

IN THEATRES

JANUARY 4

Rosemarie DeWitt and Matt Damon in *Promised Land*

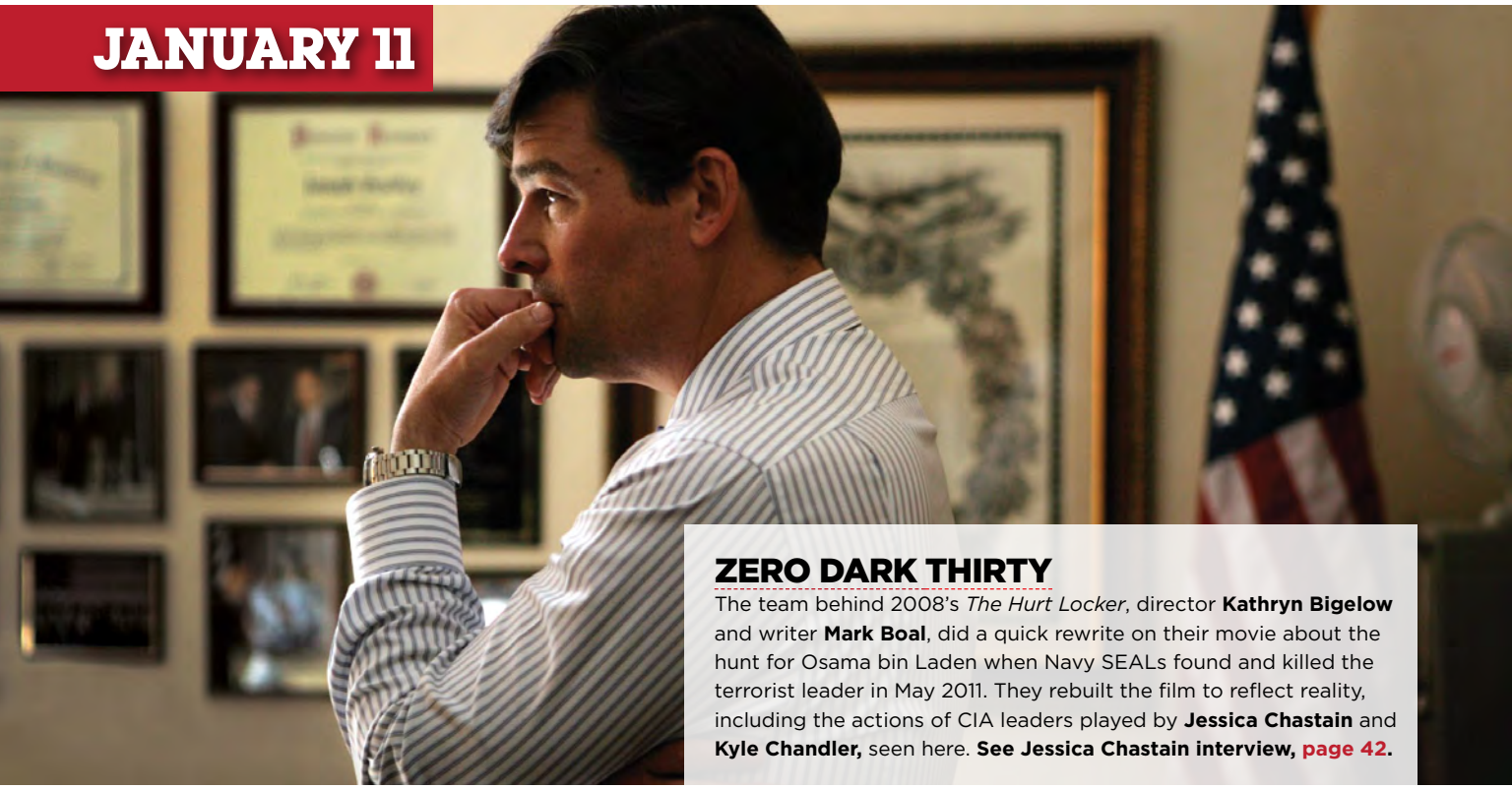
PROMISED LAND

Not only do **Matt Damon** and **John Krasinski** star in this ecologically themed drama, they co-wrote the script based on a story by **Dave Eggers**. Damon and **Frances McDormand** play sales reps for a natural gas company that wants to buy farmland for drilling purposes. However, the community — led by Krasinski — resist the environmentally questionable plan.

TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D

This seventh film in the splatter series is a sequel to the first, 1974's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, which introduced Leatherface. Here, a young woman (**Alexandra Daddario**) and her friends head to rural Texas to hang out at the mansion she inherited from her grandmother. She also inherited the homicidal dude who lives in the basement and wears dead people's faces.

JANUARY 11



ZERO DARK THIRTY

The team behind 2008's *The Hurt Locker*, director **Kathryn Bigelow** and writer **Mark Boal**, did a quick rewrite on their movie about the hunt for Osama bin Laden when Navy SEALs found and killed the terrorist leader in May 2011. They rebuilt the film to reflect reality, including the actions of CIA leaders played by **Jessica Chastain** and **Kyle Chandler,** seen here. **See Jessica Chastain interview, page 42.**

GANGSTER SQUAD

In 1940s Los Angeles a group of rogue cops known as The Gangster Squad, led by John O'Mara (**Josh Brolin**) and Jerry Wooters (**Ryan Gosling**), are given free rein to take down notorious mobster Mickey Cohen (**Sean Penn**).
See Josh Brolin interview, page 34.

CONTINUED ▶

FROM THE FILM ADAPTATION OF THE MUSICAL PHENOMENON COMES THE EPIC MOVIE SOUNDTRACK

"A Musical masterpiece!"

"Hands down the best movie of the year"

"An experience not to be missed"

– Bonnie Laufer, Tribute Canada

"The Movie has been getting lots of attention for the groundbreaking tactic of letting the actors sing live rather than having them lip sync to a recording of their own voices." – CNN

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JANUARY 18

ON THE ROAD

People have been trying to bring this Beat Generation literary classic to the screen ever since the book's author **Jack Kerouac** sent Marlon Brando a note in 1957 saying he'd make a great Dean Moriarty. Finally, it's Brazilian director **Walter Salles** who gets the job done, casting **Sam Riley** as writer Sal Paradise, who, in the 1940s, travels around America with free-spirited, but damaged, Dean (**Garrett Hedlund**), and Dean's girlfriend Marylou (**Kristen Stewart**).

BROKEN CITY

New York's mayor (**Russell Crowe**) hires Billy Taggart (**Mark Wahlberg**), an ex-cop with a dirty past, to trail his wife (**Catherine Zeta-Jones**) and find out if she's cheating. But Billy uncovers a bigger scandal that could rock city politics, and put his life in danger. **See Russell Crowe feature, page 38**.

QUARTET

Seventy-five-year-old **Dustin Hoffman** makes his official feature film directing debut with this comedy about a retired opera diva (**Maggie Smith**) who upsets the apple cart when she moves into a home for retired performers. The film co-stars **Billy Connolly**, **Pauline Collins** and **Tom Courtenay**.

***Broken City*'s Mark Wahlberg**

From left, Jessica Chastain, Isabelle Nélisse and Megan Charpentier in *Mama*

MAMA

Jessica Chastain plays a punk rocker who, with her partner (**Nikolaj Coster-Waldau**), takes in his two nieces who were found living alone in the woods. Despite misgivings, she starts to care for the girls, making the supernatural entity that guards them really angry. **See Jessica Chastain interview, page 42**.

THE LAST STAND

He's back! **Arnold Schwarzenegger** plays the sheriff of a small U.S. town near the Mexican border who must stop an escaped convict/drug lord and his heavily armed crew from reaching Mexico. Acclaimed Korean directed **Jee-woon Kim** makes his English-language movie debut.

JANUARY 25

Halle Berry in *Movie 43*

MOVIE 43

Some of Hollywood's biggest stars share their raunchy sides in this compilation of short comedic films that aim for gross-out laughs. See **Hugh Jackman**, **Halle Berry**, **Richard Gere**, **Naomi Watts**, **Emma Stone** and **Kate Winslet** like you've never seen them before in a movie that employed 12 different directors — including **Elizabeth Banks** and **Brett Ratner** — and which took four years to complete.

HANSEL & GRETEL: WITCH HUNTERS

Jeremy Renner and **Gemma Arterton** play grown-up siblings Hansel and Gretel, who survived a terrifying childhood incident involving a witch who wanted to eat them. The experience inspired their career choice to become kick-ass witch hunters.

PARKER

Jason Statham joins Lee Marvin, Mel Gibson, Jim Brown and Robert Duvall on the list of actors who've portrayed a cinematic version of writer **Donald Westlake**'s fictional thief Parker. In this movie directed by **Taylor Hackford**, Parker is double-crossed and left for dead by a gang of thieves (led by **Michael Chiklis**). Seeking revenge, he hooks up with a comely partner (**Jennifer Lopez**) to steal the loot from the gang's latest heist.

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ANNIE HALL (1977)
Diane Keaton and Woody Allen on 68th Street in New York

MOVIE MOMENTS: THEN AND NOW

Christopher Moloney is a Canadian TV writer living and working in New York. After gigs at CityTV and MuchMusic in Toronto, he moved to the Big Apple in 2000 where he is currently a writer for the CNN show *Erin Burnett OutFront*. But he's also a movie fanatic, which spawned his hobby of visiting sites of famous movie shoots to recreate those fleeting on-screen moments. "One morning I noticed I have the same commute to work as the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man," says Moloney. "I printed off a screen grab from *Ghostbusters*, snapped the photo and posted it online. My friends and family really liked it so I started doing more." The series (www. philmfotos.tumblr.com) now has more than 250 photos, including shots taken in New York, Chicago, Vietnam and Toronto. But don't call Moloney an artist, or even a photographer. "I'm just a guy who takes pictures."

25TH HOUR (2002)
FROM LEFT: Barry Pepper, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Edward Norton at Carl Schurz Park in New York

TAKE THIS WALTZ (2011)
FROM LEFT: Seth Rogen, Michelle Williams and Luke Kirby on Mackenzie Crescent in Toronto

ELF (2003)
Will Ferrell at the corner of 31st Street and Fifth Avenue in New York

THE DICTATOR (2012)
FROM LEFT: Sacha Baron Cohen and Eugene Mirman at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 75th Street in New York

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER (2011)
Chris Evans at Times Square in New York

The 10 MUST-SEE MOVIES OF 2013

Oz: The Great and Powerful MARCH 8

For more than 70 years *The Wizard of Oz*'s fantastical land of Oz has tickled the imaginations of moviegoers. For those who want to know more about the wonderfully strange and sometimes scary place, director **Sam Raimi** (*Spider-Man* trilogy) brings us this gorgeous prequel to the classic film. **James Franco** (above) stars as a Kansas magician who's blown into Oz where three witches — **Mila Kunis**, **Michelle Williams** and **Rachel Weisz** — want a piece of him. CONTINUED ▸

Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man/Tony Stark

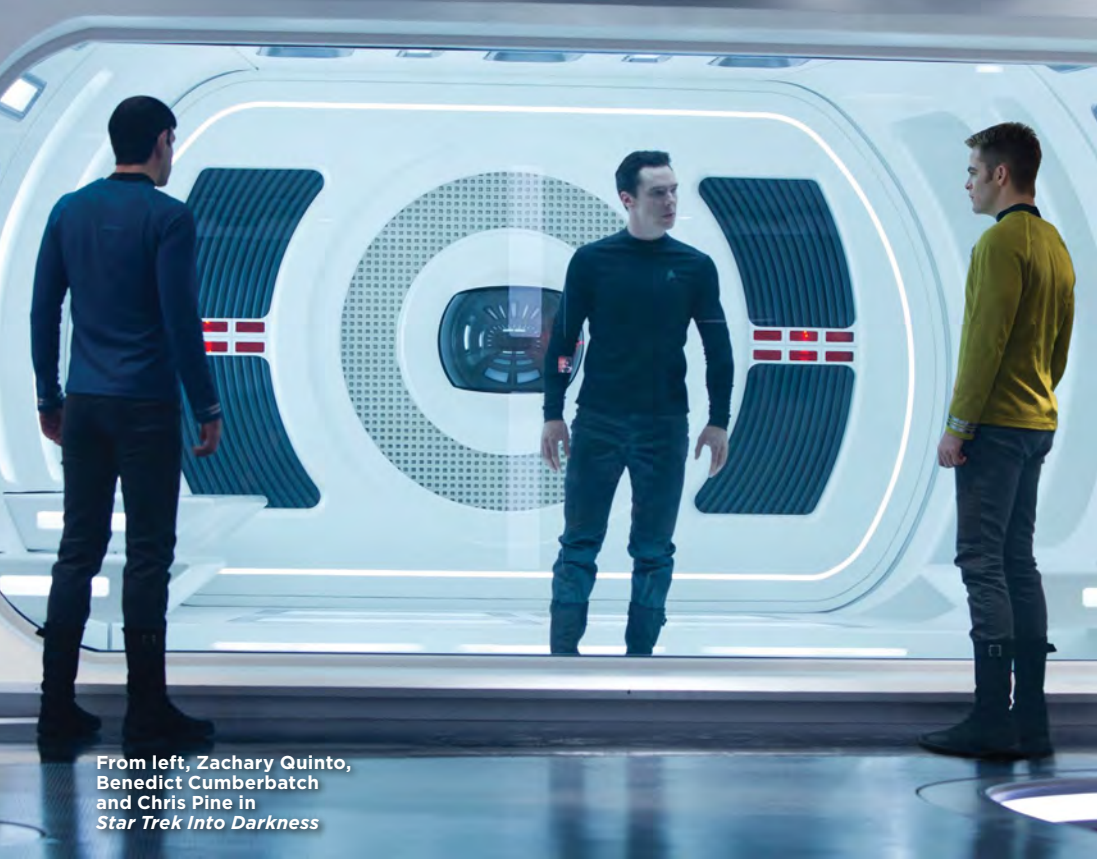
Iron Man 3 MAY 3

We just can't quit you **Robert Downey Jr.** The actor who makes superheroes fun returns for the third installment of his series, which is set after the events of last summer's *The Avengers*. Tony Stark (Downey) is out of sorts after The Avengers' epic battle against Loki, but there's no time to brood when a dangerous virus gets into the hands of an evil terrorist named Mandarin (**Ben Kingsley**).

The Great Gatsby MAY 10

In the 1974 version of *The Great Gatsby*, **Robert Redford** played the mysterious, lovelorn, Jazz Age millionaire Jay Gatsby with a pretty-boy vacancy. **Leonardo DiCaprio**, who plays Gatsby in this version directed by **Baz Luhrmann** (*Moulin Rouge!*), instills him with a meaty menace that seems so right. Look for **Tobey Maguire** as the film's narrator, lost soul Nick Carraway, and **Carey Mulligan** as Gatsby's love interest, Daisy Buchanan.

***The Great Gatsby*'s Leonardo DiCpario and Carey Mulligan. LEFT: DiCaprio with Tobey Maguire**



From left, Zachary Quinto, Benedict Cumberbatch and Chris Pine in *Star Trek Into Darkness*

Star Trek Into Darkness

MAY 17

Set phasers to awesome. Writer/director **J.J. Abrams**' gutsy *Star Trek* (2009) not only rebooted the long-in-the-tooth franchise with a cast of bright young things — **Chris Pine**, **Zoe Saldana**, **Zachary Quinto** — it altered the series timeline just enough so that the starship Enterprise crew can now have new encounters with familiar villains. Rumours are flying that the baddie in this sequel — played by the he's-so-nerdy-he's-sexy **Benedict Cumberbatch** — will be Gary Mitchell, a human with superpowers who tormented Kirk in the first season of the original *Trek* TV series.

Henry Cavill in *Man of Steel*

Man of Steel JUNE 14

Know what really excites us about this buzzed-about reboot of the iconic superhero Superman? **Christopher Nolan**. The genius behind the Batman trilogy is producing this origin story directed by **Zach Snyder** (*300*) and starring **Henry Cavill** as the superbeing who arrives on Earth as a baby, is raised by humble parents (**Kevin Costner**, **Diane Lane**) and ultimately uses his powers to save the planet from the evil alien General Zod (**Michael Shannon**).

CONTINUED ▶

The Lone Ranger JULY 3

Johnny Depp (above right) is the actor's version of a man on a high wire: you're terrified he could trip and fall but nothing will stop you from watching. This time, Depp plays Native American warrior Tonto to **Armie Hammer**'s (above left) Lone Ranger in director **Gore Verbinski**'s action-packed Western. We're betting the unrecognizable Depp — he's hidden underneath elaborate makeup and costumes — will cross the wire successfully, bringing both dignity and a bit of tongue-in-cheek levity to the part.

CONTINUED ▸

Pacific Rim JULY 12

Who wins when monsters and robots face off? Everyone! This CGI extravaganza is every fanboy's dream as huge monsters who invade Earth through a portal under the Pacific Ocean are met by massive robots piloted by humans. Director **Guillermo del Toro** calls the movie "a very, very beautiful poem to giant monsters." How cool is that?

Charlie Hunnam and Rinko Kikuchi in *Pacific Rim*

Elysium

AUGUST 9

In 2009, South African-Canadian writer/director **Neill Blomkamp** made a splash with his debut sci-fi drama *District 9*, and fans were pumped to see what the talented filmmaker would do next. Four years later we're still pumped as his sophomore sci-fi opens. Set in 2159, the Earth has become a cesspool populated by the poor, while wealthy humans live in Elysium, a luxurious space station orbiting high above the planet. An Elysium official (**Jodie Foster**) suddenly questions the system when an ex-con (**Matt Damon**, right) mysteriously arrives in her pristine world.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire NOVEMBER 22

Jennifer Lawrence kicked butt as the heroic Katniss Everdeen in what proved to be a first-rate adaptation of the best-selling novel *The Hunger Games*. The sequel ups the ante as Katniss and 24 former Hunger Games winners step back into the arena for even more pulse-pounding action. But it's Katniss's evolution into a politically astute rebel hero that we can't wait to see as she, Peeta (**Josh Hutcherson**), Cinna (**Lenny Kravitz**), Gale (**Liam Hemsworth**) and other oppressed Panem citizens court revolution.

Lenny Kravitz and Jennifer Lawrence, seen here in *The Hunger Games*, return for the sequel

***The Hobbit* star Martin Freeman (left) on set with director Peter Jackson**

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

DECEMBER 13

Could a lanky British actor playing a motion-capture dragon win an acting Oscar? It's not as ridiculous as it sounds. Word is **Benedict Cumberbatch**'s turn as Smaug — the world-weary dragon who protects his treasure trove from hobbit Bilbo (**Martin Freeman**) and his dwarf pals in the second film of director **Peter Jackson**'s epic *Hobbit* trilogy — is mesmerizing. **Ian McKellen**, who saw Cumberbatch's audition tape, said he "was electrifying, vocally and facially." As research, Cumberbatch studied Komodo dragons at the London Zoo.

GA N
BUS T

Josh Brolin and Sean Penn sure like to clash. For the second time, the actor's actors play bitter adversaries on screen, this time with Brolin's cop trying to bring down Penn's mob boss. Here, Brolin says their reunion for ***Gangster Squad*** was no accident

BY JIM SLOTEK

IG
ER

Josh Brolin (right) and his team of rogue cops in *Gangster Squad*

One of the most popular actors in Hollywood, Josh Brolin has a lot of A-list friends. But the friendship with the guy he calls his "dance partner," Sean Penn, was sealed with a kiss.

They met back in 2007 on the set of *Milk*, in which Penn played San Francisco's Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. Brolin played Dan White, the disturbed city supervisor who assassinated Milk, and served only five years in prison after invoking the infamous "Twinkie defence," which claimed he was under the influence of a junk-food binge.

The two were literally mortal enemies on screen. But when they met on set Penn chose to break the ice by publicly kissing Brolin full on the lips.

After vowing to find another project to do together, years later the two friends are back at each other's throats, as real-life gangster Mickey Cohen (Penn) and his LAPD nemesis Sergeant John O'Mara (Brolin) in the period piece *Gangster Squad*.

Reports from the set tell of a brutal, choreographed, knockdown fight between Penn's Cohen and Brolin's O'Mara. "Good versus evil," Brolin says of the skirmish during an L.A. interview. "It's pretty primal."

"It was really good man, really good," continues Brolin, laidback in jeans and a black shirt. "Not only is Sean one of the most talented actors ever, but I love working with him. Some actors, it's an easy dance." Brolin says that after doing *Milk* he and Penn found *Gangster Squad* together. "And we'll continue to work together."

From *Zombieland* director Ruben Fleischer, *Gangster Squad* recounts the battle to prevent Brooklyn-born mob boss Cohen from setting up shop in Los Angeles through the 1940s and '50s. For the most part, Cohen gets an easy ride courtesy of the police and politicos on his payroll. But a small, secret LAPD squad has quietly been given the power to take Cohen down by any means necessary. Leading this bunch is O'Mara and his right-hand man Sergeant Jerry Wooters (Ryan Gosling).

Mention of his sidekick Gosling inspires the 44-year-old to launch into a stream of accolades for the current generation of actors. "There are actors coming out of the woodwork right now that are just phenomenal," he says. "Michael Shannon, [Michael] Fassbender, Tom Hardy, Jessica Chastain…"

And then there's Gosling. "I really enjoyed working with Ryan," Brolin says of the Canadian CONTINUED ▶

"The career thing, I like it right now, because I don't feel I've sold out," says Brolin.

"I feel good about the characters I'm playing and the movies I'm in"

phenom. "He comes from a totally different kind of world. He's never taken an acting class and he's just kind of taught himself. He loves that whole kind of [John] Cassavetes approach [handheld cameras, enigmatic, spontaneous acting], which I think is fun.

"I love Cassavetes, I love improvising. And he's big into that. I watched [Gosling in] *Blue Valentine* again the other night. It makes you feel like sh-t for three days, but it's really good."

Not that Brolin was going to let Gosling get too serious on him. He needled the Canadian kid about his time on TV's *The Mickey Mouse Club*, a period during which Gosling appeared on the show alongside the likes of Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears. "I even had a little piece of his Mickey Mouse singing put on video. I was going to play it on the set, but the ambience was never right."

The son of actor James Brolin (making Barbra Streisand his stepmother), Josh has turned out to be a late bloomer, winning accolades for recent turns in *No Country for Old Men*, Oliver Stone's *W.*, and even *Men in Black 3*, in which his impression of a young Tommy Lee Jones became the most talked about part of the movie.

The earlier part of his career wasn't so solid.

Having been on the cusp of stardom since 1985's kids' pic *The Goonies*, Brolin fondly recalls the night he and pal Johnny Depp were unknowns, both up for a part in the new Fox TV series *21 Jump Street*, waiting for the phone call in Brolin's apartment. Depp got the part, "and the next day he was on a plane to Vancouver," where the series was shot, remembers Brolin. Depp was en route to stardom, while Brolin continued on with TV guest spots and indie movies.

"So you have all these great stories when you've been in the business for 28 years," Brolin says. "But the bottom line is, you just want to work, man.

"And the career thing, I like it right now, because I don't feel I've sold out. I feel good about the characters I'm playing and the movies I'm in.

"I've turned down a lot of 'event' films over the years," he continues. "Money's neat, money's fun and when somebody's holding out their hands [full of cash] saying, 'You want some? You want some?' there's a little bit of withdrawal when you say, 'No.'"

Jim Slotek writes about movies for The Toronto Sun.

Mobster Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn, left) faces off against cop John O'Mara (Josh Brolin) in *Gangster Squad*

PHOTO BY KEYSTONE PRESS

THE RESHOOT

Ryan Gosling is seen here in L.A.'s Chinatown doing reshoots for a pivotal sequence in *Gangster Squad* less than a month before the movie was originally scheduled to hit theatres. By this point in late August 2012, cast and crew knew that their film had been pushed from its September 7th release date, and with good reason.

An important scene toward the end of the movie involved gangster Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn) and his men arriving at Grauman's Chinese Theatre and shooting up the audience. The scene even figured prominently in the film's first trailer.

But on July 20th, a gunman opened fire on the audience at a midnight screening of *The Dark Knight Rises* in Aurora, Colorado, killing 12 people and injuring 58 others.

Shortly thereafter the *Gangster Squad* trailer was pulled from the Warner Brothers site and the film's writers got to work reshaping that important sequence so that the action takes place on the streets of Chinatown rather than inside the theatre. —*MW*

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CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PICTURE: Russell Crowe and Catherine Zeta-Jones in *Broken City*; Crowe with female admirers in *The Man With the Iron Fists*; Crowe as Inspector Javert in *Les Misérables*

BROKEN CITY
HITS THEATRES
JANUARY 18TH

WHO IS RUSSELL CROWE?

Ten years ago, we thought we knew the genius actor. Now we're not so sure...

BY INGRID RANDOJA

Russell Crowe stars as a mayor with questionable ethics in this month's thriller *Broken City*. This on the heels of playing cruel Inspector Javert in the musical *Les Misérables* and a knife-happy killer in *The Man With the Iron Fists*. But he hasn't completely devoted his life to bad guys. The 48-year-old actor has big-budget pics *Man of Steel* (he plays Superman's pop Jor-El) and the titular role in *Noah* coming up, plus one more rough character, gangster Pearly Soames in the adaptation of the novel *Winter's Tale*.

It's a flurried comeback for a man who often looks as if he'd rather be up on stage singing, getting into a barroom brawl or living a quiet life on his ranch than acting. So it's time we ask, who exactly is Russell Crowe?

The Actor

As the 1990s gave way to the 2000s, one actor dominated the big screen and seemed poised to win awards and accolades for years to come. Russell Crowe was at the top of his game.

The serious Australian won a Best Actor Oscar for *Gladiator* in 2001 and was nominated in 2000 for *The Insider* and in 2002 for *A Beautiful Mind*. In his Oscar acceptance speech Crowe said, "When you grow up in the suburbs of anywhere, a dream like this seems kind of vaguely ludicrous and completely unattainable. But this moment is directly connected to those childhood imagining[s]. And for anybody who's on the downside of advantage and relying purely on courage, it's possible."

Born in New Zealand, Crowe moved to Australia as a young child, and as the son of movie set caterers he spent a good deal of his childhood fuelling his imagination on film sets. A failed career as a rockabilly singer in his early 20s shifted his interests to acting, and in 1992 he turned heads playing an Aussie skinhead in the critically acclaimed *Romper Stomper*.

Hollywood took notice, and in 1997 he burst onto the scene like an angry bull, playing bruising cop Bud White in *L.A. Confidential*.

The aforementioned string of great films and personal successes seemed to affect Crowe (see "The Tabloid Star"), and while he gave some powerful performances in films such as *Cinderella Man* (2005), *3:10 to Yuma* (2007) and *Body of Lies* (2008), the movies didn't resonate with audiences and his one attempt to play a romantic leading man in *A Good Year* (2006) fizzled.

In 2010, he reunited with *Gladiator* director Ridley Scott hoping to rekindle that mythic-hero magic in *Robin Hood*. Crowe threw himself into the role, yet the movie was more plodding than epic. It seemed the actor was treading water, playing all-too-serious men in films that failed to leave an impression.

To lighten things up, Crowe headed to Newfoundland in August 2011 to star alongside Canadian pals Alan Doyle (see "The Musician") and Kevin Durand on an episode of CBC TV's crime comedy *Republic of Doyle*. Perhaps it was just what he needed, ushering in this present wave of acting.

CONTINUED ▶

PHOTO BY SPLASH NEWS

Alan Doyle (left) and Russell Crowe perform in Reykjavik

The Musician

Music is Russell Crowe's passion. Watch him sing on stage and you see a man smitten; he smiles, laughs and shows a more relaxed side of himself than we see on screen.

He started out as a pompadoured singer performing under the name Russ Le Roq in 1980 and released the single "I Just Want to Be Like Marlon Brando," despite later admitting he'd never seen a Brando film when he penned the song.

In 1992, he formed the group 30 Odd Foot of Grunts (TOFOG) with friend Billy Dean Cochrane. The band released three albums and toured throughout the '90s. On film, Crowe put his musical skills to the test, learning how to play the violin for the film *Master and Commander*, which helped channel his aggression. As he told *Limelight* magazine, "If you are strong with the violin you get something quite mystical, if you are aggressive, you get nothing."

By early 2005, TOFOG had disbanded, in large part because Crowe wanted to make more meaningful music. He befriended Great Big Sea singer Alan Doyle, and together they formed a new band, The Ordinary Fear of God, and released a 2005 album entitled *My Hand, My Heart*.

Crowe, Doyle and pals perform every chance they get. While shooting *Noah* in Iceland, Crowe hooked up with Doyle and the legendary Patti Smith to perform during Reykjavik Culture Nights, and when *Noah* filming moved to New York, Crowe and Doyle put on a show at the Gramercy Theatre that included an appearance by Sting.

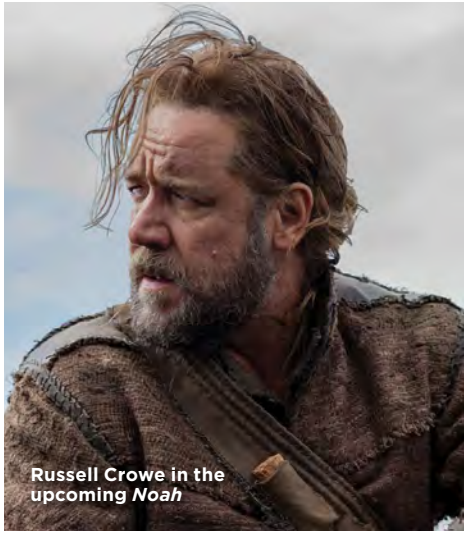
The Tabloid Star

If Russell Crowe's anger and intensity make him a great actor, they are also the traits that get him into trouble.

In February 2002 at the BAFTA Awards in London, Crowe won a prize for his turn in *A Beautiful Mind*. Due to time constraints the show's producer, Malcolm Gerrie, cut the end of Crowe's acceptance speech in which he recites a poem. At the post-show party, Crowe pinned Gerrie against a wall and reportedly yelled, "I don't give a fu-k who you are. Who on Earth had the fu-king audacity to take out the Best Actor's poem? You fu-king piece of sh-t."

Later that year, upset over the death of his *Gladiator* co-star and friend Richard Harris, Crowe got into a dust-up in a London restaurant that also made headlines.

But Crowe's most embarrassing incident occurred in New York on June 6th, 2005, when he was arrested and charged with assault after a phone he threw hit a hotel employee who couldn't — or wouldn't — help Crowe make a call to his family in Australia. For that he offered a very public apology that included the sentence, "The bottom line is that I did something pretty stupid and I don't wish to repeat it ever again." And to his credit, Crowe has stayed out of the tabloid spotlight since.



Russell Crowe in the upcoming *Noah*

Personal Life

After having been romantically linked to actors Meg Ryan, Nicole Kidman and Jennifer Connelly (among others), Crowe married his on-again, off-again girlfriend Danielle Spencer on April 7, 2003, on his 560-acre cattle ranch in New South Wales, Australia.

The couple met in 1990 when they were cast as young lovers in the Aussie pic *The Crossing*. Crowe calls "Dani" his "muse" and revealed to *Entertainment Weekly* in 2005 that thanks to marriage, "I probably am a lot more communicative now. I'm not as defensive as I once was." The couple has two sons, Charlie (born in 2003) and Tennyson (born in 2006).

Sadly, Crowe's marriage is in trouble. In October 2012 it was revealed he'd separated from his wife — the spilt was reportedly initiated by Danielle.

Ingrid Randoja is the deputy editor of Cineplex Magazine.

PHOTO BY RYAN PIERSE/GETTY

IN OTHER CHANGES...

In March 2006, Crowe bought a 37.5% stake in his favourite rugby team, the cash-strapped South Sydney Rabbitohs. He spent millions of dollars improving the team, and it paid off as the Rabbitohs finished third in 2012, its best showing in a decade. But a couple of months ago Crowe announced he was selling his stake in the team. "It's pretty simple, I have to make more time for my family," he said.

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MAMA HITS THEATRES JANUARY 18TH

JESSICA CHASTAIN'S Dark Turn

With that jet black hair, redheaded **Jessica Chastain** is almost unrecognizable in the chilling horror pic ***Mama***. She also has a grave role as a CIA agent looking for Osama bin Laden in ***Zero Dark Thirty***. It's a dark January indeed for one of Hollywood's brightest stars ■ BY CHRIS ALEXANDER

Suddenly, Jessica Chastain has become Hollywood's "It" girl, a performer who can tackle any role in any genre and not only demand attention but, in most cases, own every frame.

In the past three years, the ethereal, California-born beauty has given powerhouse performances in sophisticated pictures that gently push the envelope of the mainstream (*Take Shelter*, *The Tree of Life*), in blockbusters (a bubbly social outcast in *The Help*), tightly wound thrillers (the young Helen Mirren in *The Debt*) and family films (*Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*). Along the way she amassed accolades, including a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination for *The Help*, and used each success as another brick in the foundation of what is shaping up to be a major cinematic legacy.

This month the 35-year-old redhead has two radically different movies hitting screens. The first is the slow-burning, atmospheric Canadian/Spanish horror movie *Mama* from producer Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*, *Splice*) and first-time director Andy Muschietti based on his chilling three-minute short of the same name. Chastain plays Annabel, an aging, failed punk rocker who is suddenly charged with caring for two feral little girls found living wild in a cabin in the woods. As Annabel taps into her innate maternal instincts, she finds herself running afoul of an even more maternal wraith that isn't as nurturing. Much terror and austere atmosphere ensues.

The other film is the instantly controversial, fact-based *Zero Dark Thirty*, an intense dramatic thriller directed by Kathryn Bigelow and penned by Mark Boal — the duo behind the Oscar-winning *The Hurt Locker*. It details the search for Osama bin Laden, a mission spearheaded by Chastain's CIA operative.

We spoke with the lovely actor — who *TIME Magazine* recently christened one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" — on a crackling phone line from Los Angeles.

Q:

You have this uncanny gift for playing these strong, often troubled women in stressful situations. Do you ever find it difficult to disengage from your characters?

"Well, it's not hard exactly but sometimes it's a little sad in a way because some of these characters I play, I really, really like. It's almost like when I wrap the film, I know I have to say goodbye to them. For example Celia Foote from *The Help*...it was really tough to say goodbye to her because she was just so much fun to play with. And Mrs. O'Brien, the mother from *The Tree of Life*, it was just such a joy to make that movie. I mean, I'd show up for work and my director was Terrence Malick and I got to share the screen with those two adorable little boys. So sometimes yes, I feel sad in the knowing that those times end, and I'll be forever different, but knowing I won't meet that character anymore."

Technically, *Mama* is your first horror film. It's based on a truly scary short film that caused quite a splash on the festival circuit and online. How much of that eerie ambience stayed intact when stretched to feature length?

"Well, the reason I signed on to do *Mama* is the name Guillermo del Toro. I'm a crazy fangirl when it comes to his work. So when I saw Andy's short film I was totally blown away by what he did in such a small space of time, in three minutes. It's like, one shot. Up the staircase, seeing mama. So that three minutes is the seed of what *Mama* has become, it maintains that strange feel of the short film which is incredibly exciting. We get to see more of what mama is, we get to understand where the two little girls come from and, of course, we are introduced to my character, Annabel, who isn't in the short film at all."

CONTINUED ▶

ZERO DARK THIRTY
HITS THEATRES JANUARY 11TH

Jessica Chastain in *Zero Dark Thirty*

"It was a great responsibility making this film and it was essential that we **were all being as accurate as possible," Chastain says of *Zero Dark Thirty***

I'm guessing that del Toro and Muschietti allowed you some leeway to design Annabel?
"Yes, absolutely. The essence of what the character was in the script is still there. She played bass guitar in a punk band, but she wasn't very good so she'd never be famous, so she was playing for fun. Her boyfriend just wants her to grow up but she wants to stay in the world. And along comes this level of responsibility in these two girls. Now, I kept pushing for her to not be very likeable. I wanted her to be selfish and initially see these kids as a hindrance, a major drag. And as the story progresses, she rallies and finds her strength when she has to wrestle with 'mama.' She's the one you least expect would have that strength. This is not a cheap horror film. Though I should mention that I love cheap horror films, I love all horror films. But sometimes horror relies on nothing but loud noises and false scares and cats jumping out of cupboards, but this one refuses to do that.... Andy sculpted a feeling that no matter what is happening, something is just...not...right. It just builds and builds and builds."

Is there some kind of running thread in your work in that you gravitate toward women in unpleasant domestic situations?
"No [laughs], I'm just really drawn to very complex women who are very interesting. Which is why I don't play a lot of girlfriends, I suppose...they're not typically the strongest female roles. But my role in *Zero Dark Thirty*, well, that's not a domestic role at all. Quite the opposite."

You got to work with Kathryn Bigelow.
"I sure did."

Although *Zero Dark Thirty* is far from a horror film, she always seems to mine darkness in her work.
"Yes. She's always been a hero of mine. Not just because of masterpieces like *The Hurt Locker* but because of her earlier work, especially *Point Break* — I'm a huge *Point Break* fan and so, again, getting the chance to work with her was huge for me personally."

Tell us about your character.
"Kathryn gave me the chance to play this dynamic, strong woman, a character based on a real woman in this brilliant movie based on a true story. And I really don't think any other person could have directed *Zero Dark Thirty* other than Kathryn Bigelow. After all, she had spent so much time in this dark world for *The Hurt Locker* with Mark [Boal] and he researched this film intensely, which started off as this piece of investigative journalism he was engaged in and from there it became a screenplay based on what he discovered."

Was there a lot of pressure playing a character based on a real person?
"There certainly was. It was a great responsibility making this film and it was essential that we were all being as accurate as possible telling this story, it was really kind of like a dream team that came together to do it."

Chris Alexander is a Toronto-based writer and filmmaker and the editor-in-chief of the horror movie magazine Fangoria.

FROM LEFT: ***Mama*'s Nikolaj Coster-Waldeau, Jessica Chastain, Isabelle Nélisse and Megan Charpentier**

Vertigo's Kim Novak and James Stewart

VERTIGO screens as part of Cineplex's Classic Film Series on January 13th and 16th. Go to Cineplex.com/events for times and locations.

SO GOOD, IT'LL MAKE YOU DIZZY

Among the many archetypes that crowded movie screens in the 1950s, director Alfred Hitchcock's parade of "ice blondes" remains amongst the most fascinating. Grace Kelly set the mold across three Hitchcock hits and Doris Day sweetened it a bit in *The Man Who Knew Too Much*. But the gold standard among the master of the macabre's golden-haired heroines was Kim Novak in 1958's *Vertigo*.

The labyrinthine plot centres on retired San Francisco police detective John "Scottie" Ferguson (James Stewart). Forced into early retirement due to debilitating vertigo, Scottie is hired by his friend Gavin Elster (Tom Helmore) to investigate the erratic behaviour of his wife, Madeleine. To tell more would reveal too much. Suffice it to say that Madeleine and lookalike Judy Barton (Novak in a double role) literally drive Scottie to the precipice of madness.

Though *Vertigo* met with mixed reviews at the time of its original release, it has since been lauded as Hitchcock's masterwork. Last year, when Britain's *Sight & Sound* magazine conducted its critics' poll of the all-time greatest films, *Vertigo* ranked #1, displacing *Citizen Kane* which had held the top spot for 50 years.

—*CHRISTOPHER LOUDON*

CASTING CALL

BY INGRID RANDOJA

STEWART AND AFFLECK GET FOCUSED

She made googly eyes at **Robert Pattinson** through five *Twilight* films, and now **Kristen Stewart** hooks up with new leading man **Ben Affleck** in *Focus*, about a veteran con artist who falls for his newbie partner. Directors **Glenn Ficarra** and **John Requa**, who helmed *Crazy, Stupid, Love.*, were hoping that film's twosome of **Ryan Gosling** and **Emma Stone** would reteam for *Focus*, but when that fell through Affleck and Stewart stepped into the roles.

DIAZ IS THE OTHER WOMAN

Cameron Diaz puts her considerable comedic talents to work in *The Other Woman*, playing a woman who discovers her boyfriend is actually a married man. To get even, she teams with his wife to humiliate him. Rumours are flying that Kristen Wiig could play the wife in the film that's being compared to *The First Wives Club*.

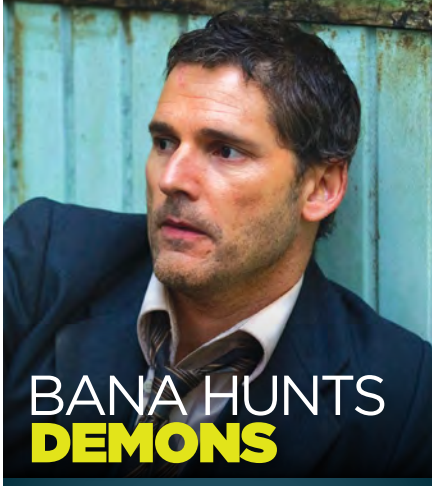
HARDY SHOOTS TO KILL

Videogame adaptations are all the rage, with *Assassin's Creed* and *Deus Ex: Human Revolution* heading to the big screen. You can add *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell* to the list as Tom Hardy has agreed to play black ops agent Sam Fisher in a film that has material from six videogames to work with. No word on a director or release date.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH...

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE 5

The fourth *Mission: Impossible* film, *Ghost Protocol*, took in $695-million worldwide, saved the faltering series and re-energized **Tom Cruise**'s career as an action star. Greenlighting a fifth movie was a no-brainer and Cruise has confirmed he will play spy Ethan Hunt and act as producer when the film starts shooting, likely later this year. The buzz is that Cruise's *Jack Reacher* director **Christopher McQuarrie**, who also penned Cruise's World War II pic *Valkyrie*, will accept the cinematic mission.



BANA HUNTS DEMONS

Beware the Night casts **Eric Bana** as a New York City cop who investigates supernatural cases, including demon possessions and exorcisms. The movie is based on the real life of South Bronx cop **Ralph Sarchie**, who moonlights as a demonologist and who has assisted in 20 exorcisms. **Scott Derrickson** (*Sinister*) both writes and directs the paranormal pic.

FRESH FACE KANIEHTIIO HORN

Mohawk actor Kaniehtiio Horn has appeared in many Canadian films, but the 26-year-old makes her Hollywood debut this month playing Sal's (Sam Riley) lover Rita Bettencourt in the big-screen adaptation of *On the Road*. In addition, look for her as a gypsy witch in the original Netflix horror series *Hemlock Grove* airing this month. Horn, who split time as a child living with her native mom on a reserve outside Montreal and with her white father in Ottawa, can also be heard as the voice of Ziio in the popular videogame *Assassin's Creed III*.

PHOTO BY ADRIANA GARCIA/KEYSTONE PRESS

HATHAWAY BATTLES ROBOTS

Anne Hathaway continues to nab the hottest female roles in Hollywood. The 30-year-old has signed to star in director Steven Spielberg's highly anticipated *Robopocalypse* opposite Chris Hemsworth. The film, based on Daniel H. Wilson's bestseller, is set in the near future where robots — an integral part of everyday human life — rise up against their flesh-and-blood masters. The film starts shooting early this year and opens April 25th, 2014.

ALSO IN THE WORKS

▶**Benedict Cumberbatch** will play **Julian Assange** in a film about WikiLeaks. ▶***Paradise Lost*** casts **Benicio del Toro** as Colombian drug lord **Pablo Escobar**. ▶**Jared Leto** returns to the big screen as a cross-dressing drug smuggler in *The Dallas Buyers Club*. ▶*Insidious* cost $1.5-million to make, and earned $97-million worldwide, so it's no surprise *Insidious 2* starts shooting this month for an August release.

AT HOME

January's BEST DVD AND BLU-RAY

END OF WATCH JANUARY 15

It follows the standard buddy-cop format, but this tense, intimate cop drama from director **David Ayer** (who wrote *Training Day*, *Dark Blue* and *The Fast and the Furious*) delighted critics on the festival circuit and then again when the film hit theatres this past September. **Jake Gyllenhaal** and **Michael Peña** play Los Angeles police officers who put their lives at risk by taking on a Mexican drug cartel operating in South Central L.A.

COSMOPOLIS

JANUARY 1

In one of the year's surprise pairings, *Twilight*'s dreamy **Robert Pattinson** united with Canada's surrealist, often disturbing, filmmaker **David Cronenberg** to make this chilly drama that follows a detached billionaire (Pattinson) across Manhattan (though much of the movie was shot in Toronto) during a single day.

DREDD

JANUARY 8

Put the disastrous 1995 version starring Sylvester Stallone out of your mind; this from-scratch adaptation of the comic book got great reviews. **Karl Urban** (*Star Trek*'s Bones) plays the titular Dredd, a futuristic cop who also acts as judge, jury and executioner in a dystopian society with a bad drug problem.

HOUSE AT THE END OF THE STREET

JANUARY 8

Elisabeth Shue and **Jennifer Lawrence** star as a mother and daughter who move into the house next door to the scene of a multiple murder. Daughter strikes up a friendship with the lone survivor of that grisly massacre, the family's son (**Max Thieriot**)...which may not be such a good idea.

Something Special

GAME CHANGE

JANUARY 8

One of the most talked-about films of the past year that did not get a theatrical release comes to DVD and Blu-ray. Julianne Moore won an Emmy for her portrayal of Sarah Palin in the HBO film about Palin's selection as John McCain's running mate during the 2008 U.S. Presidential campaign.

Games

Why We Love...

FINAL FANTASY XIII-2

JANUARY 31

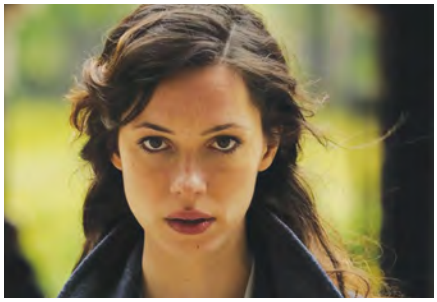
PS3, XBOX 360

It's a sequel set three years after the end of *FF XIII*. Why so many *FF* games? Gamers can't get enough of those stunning visuals, sweeping soundtracks and beautiful, but peculiar, Japanese storylines.

THE PAPERBOY

JANUARY 15

The reviews for director **Lee Daniels**' follow up to *Precious* are so inflamed (Roger Ebert calls it "great trash"), how can we not see it? **John Cusack** plays a convicted murderer whose girlfriend (**Nicole Kidman**) seeks help from a newspaper reporter (**Matthew McConaughey**) to get her man out of jail.



THE AWAKENING

JANUARY 29

Florence (**Rebecca Hall**) is a famous debunker of all things ghostly. She's even written a book on the subject. So when a remote boarding school in the English countryside is plagued by sightings of one of their dead students, Florence is called in to figure out what's really going on.

TO ROME WITH LOVE

JANUARY 15

For director **Woody Allen**'s follow-up to *Midnight in Paris*, we travel to Rome, where an American student (**Jesse Eisenberg**) gets advice about his love life from a famous architect (**Alec Baldwin**). Meanwhile, Allen plays a former music producer who turns an Italian shower crooner (**Fabio Armiliato**) into a star.

MORE MOVIES ▶**HIT & RUN** (JANUARY 8) ▶**STOLEN** (JANUARY 8) ▶**FRANKENWEENIE** (JANUARY 8) ▶**SAMSARA** (JANUARY 15) ▶**FAREWELL, MY QUEEN** (JANUARY 15) ▶**WON'T BACK DOWN** (JANUARY 15) ▶**THE POSSESSION** (JANUARY 15) ▶**FOR A GOOD TIME, CALL...** (JANUARY 22)

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FINALLY...

Arnold Schwarzenegger circa 2013 in *The Last Stand* (left) faces off against Arnold Schwarzenegger circa 2003 in *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*

He's BACK

Other than bit parts and cameos, this month's *The Last Stand* marks Arnold Schwarzenegger's first film since 2003's *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*. Aside from developing some new wrinkles in those 10 years, Schwarzenegger became the 38th Governor of California; rescued a drowning man on vacation in Hawaii; broke his leg while on a ski trip in Sun Valley, Idaho; became a leader in environmental issues with the groundbreaking Global Warming Solutions Act; ran in the torch relay at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics; announced a comic book franchise based on himself, and developed with Stan Lee, called *The Governator*; completed his second term as Governor of California; separated from his wife of 25 years Maria Shriver; admitted to fathering a son fourteen years earlier with his family's housekeeper; put *The Governator* on hold after the scandal; turned 65; attended Comic-Con to receive the Inkpot Award for his contributions to pop culture; shot *The Last Stand* in New Mexico and Nevada; released the tell-all autobiography *Total Recall: My Unbelievably True Life Story*; discussed his desire to reunite with Shriver on several TV shows; launched the Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy at the University of Southern California; signed onto the 2014 film *The Legend of Conan* in which he will reprise his role as Conan the Barbarian. *—MW*

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